

1 Michael S. Danko (SBN 111359)
2 Kristine K. Meredith (SBN 158243)
3 **DANKO MEREDITH**
4 333 Twin Dolphin Drive, Suite 145
5 Redwood Shores, California 94065
6 Telephone: (650) 453-3600
7 Facsimile: (650) 394-8672
8 mdanko@dankolaw.com
9 kmeredith@dankolaw.com

7 Eric Gibbs (SBN 178658)
8 Dylan Hughes (SBN 209113)
9 **GIBBS LAW GROUP LLP**
10 505 14th Street, Suite 1110
11 Oakland, California 94612
12 Telephone: (510) 350-9700
13 Facsimile: (510) 350-9701
14 ehg@classlawgroup.com
15 dsh@classlawgroup.com

12 Attorneys for
13 *Michael Lamberts and Martha Lamberts*

14 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
15 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
16 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

17 **In re:**

18 **PG&E CORPORATION,**

19 **&**

20 **PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC**
21 **COMPANY,**

22 **Debtors.**

Dario de Ghetaldi (SBN 126782)
Amanda L. Riddle (SBN 215221)
COREY, LUZAICH
DE GHETALDI & RIDDLE LLP
700 El Camino Real
P.O Box 669
Millbrae, California 94030
Telephone: (650) 871-5666
Facsimile: (650) 871-4144
deg@coreylaw.com
alr@coreylaw.com

Case No. 19-30088
Chapter 11
(Lead Case)

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR
ORDER AUTHORIZING WITHDRAWAL
OF COUNSEL; MEMORANDUM OF
POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

1 TO THE HONORABLE DENNIS MONTALI, UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY
2 COURT JUDGE, AND ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

3 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Firms of COREY, LUZAICH, DE GHETALDI &
4 RIDDLE LLP, DANKO MEREDITH, and GIBBS LAW GROUP LLP, current attorneys of
5 record for Creditors, Michael Lamberts and Martha Lamberts will and hereby does move this
6 Court for an Order Authorizing Withdrawal of Counsel in the Bankruptcy case referenced
7 above. This Motion is pursuant to the applicable Rules of Procedure and is based upon this
8 notice, the motion itself, the accompanying memorandum of points and authorities, the
9 declaration of Michael S. Danko, and the pleadings and documents on file in this case.

10 PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, in accordance with Bankruptcy Local Rule
11 9014-1(3)(A), any objection to the requested relief, or a request for hearing on the matter, must
12 be filed with the Clerk of Court and served upon the initiating party within 21 days of mailing
13 the notice;

14 Any objection or request for a hearing must be accompanied by any declarations or
15 memoranda of law any requesting party wishes to present in support of its position;

16 If there is no timely objection to the requested relief or a request for hearing, the court
17 may enter an order granting the relief by default.

18 In the event of a timely objection or request for hearing, (either):

19 The initiating party will give at least seven days written notice of the hearing to the
20 objecting or requesting party, and to any trustee or committee appointed in the case; or

21 The tentative hearing date, location and time are (insert date location and time)."

22 Dated: October 27, 2020

DANKO MEREDITH

23
24 By: 
25 MICHAEL S. DANKO
KRISTINE K. MEREDITH

26 Attorneys for Creditors
27 Michael Lamberts and
28 Martha Lamberts

1 **I. RELEVANT FACTS**

2 COREY, LUZAICH, DE GHETALDI & RIDDLE LLP, DANKO MEREDITH, and
3 GIBBS LAW GROUP LLP (“Firm”), counsel of record for Creditors, Michael Lamberts and
4 Martha Lamberts respectfully submits this Motion for Order Authorizing Withdrawal of
5 Counsel (“Motion”) pursuant to Rule 7007-1, 9013-1, 9013-2, 9013-3, and 9014-1 of the
6 Bankruptcy Local Rules.

7 **A. In support of this Motion, the Firm represents as follows:**

8 On November 16, 2018, Michael Lamberts and Martha Lamberts signed a retainer
9 agreement (“Agreement”) with the Firm, engaging the Firm for legal representation in
10 connection with their legal action against PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric
11 Company for damages caused by the Camp Fire. *Danko Declaration*, at ¶ 4.

12 On November 19, 2018, the Firm filed Mass Tort Complaint on behalf of Michael and
13 Martha Lamberts in San Francisco County Superior Court, *Tom Reinert v. PG&E Corporation,*
14 *A California Corporation*, case no. CGC-18-571432. *Id.*, at ¶ 5.

15 On or around January 29, 2019, PG&E Corporation and Pacific Gas and Electric
16 Company (“Debtors”) filed voluntary petitions for bankruptcy under Chapter 11 of Title 11 of
17 the United States Code, initiating bankruptcy case number 19-30088 in the Bankruptcy Court
18 for the Northern District of California (“Bankruptcy Case”). *Id.*, at ¶ 6.

19 On October 15, 2019, the Firm filed Claim No. 66484 on behalf of Michael Lamberts
20 and Claim No. 66339 on behalf of Martha Lamberts. *Id.*, at ¶ 7.

21 On December 20, 2019, the Firm filed Amended Claim No. 91554 on behalf of
22 Martha Lamberts. *Id.*, at ¶ 8.

23 In late September of 2020, it became clear to the Firm that an irreparable and
24 irreconcilable breakdown in the attorney-client relationship had occurred. *Id.*, at ¶ 9-12.

25 Based on these circumstances, good cause exists for the Court to enter an Order
26 relieving the Firm as counsel of record for Michael Lamberts and Martha Lamberts.
27
28

1 **II. ARGUMENT**

2 Pursuant to Rule 11-5 (a) of the Local Civil Rules in force in the Northern District of
3 California, “counsel may not withdraw from an action until relieved by order of Court after
4 written notice has been given reasonably in advance to the client and to all other parties who
5 have appeared in the case.” Furthermore, California’s professional ethics Standing Committee
6 has opined that when seeking leave of court to withdraw as counsel, it will “ordinarily...be
7 sufficient [for an attorney] to say only words to the effect that ethical considerations require
8 withdrawal or that there has been an irreconcilable breakdown in the attorney-client
9 relationship.” Formal Opinion No. 2015-192. In the case at bar, the existence of an irreconcilable
10 breakdown of the attorney-client relationship is manifest in the statements by Mr. Lamberts as
11 well as the cease in communications by Michael and Martha Lamberts. This constitutes good
12 cause for the Court to grant leave for the Firm to withdraw as counsel of record.

13 **III. CONCLUSION**

14 For the foregoing reasons and for the reasons set forth in the Declaration of Michael S.
15 Danko, submitted in support of this Motion, the Firm respectfully requests that the Court enter
16 an Order granting the Firm leave to withdraw as counsel of record for Michael Lamberts and
17 Martha Lamberts.

18 Dated: October 27, 2020

DANKO MEREDITH

19
20 By: 
21 MICHAEL S. DANKO
KRISTINE K. MEREDITH

22 Attorneys for Creditors
23 Michael Lamberts and
24 Martha Lamberts
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